

Executive Summary

California Food Policy Advocates' annual report, *School's Out...Who Ate?*, tracks trends in the federally funded summer nutrition programs. Statewide in July 2011, the number of low-income children served by these programs declined six percent compared to July 2010; nearly 30 percent compared to July 2008; and over 50 percent compared to July 2002. This decline is driven largely by the loss of summer school opportunities.

Policymakers recognize that cuts to summer school eliminate valuable opportunities for academic enrichment, but few policymakers consider the impact on nutrition. The summer nutrition gap jeopardizes the health and academic success of over 2 million low-income students in California who benefit from free or reduced-price school meals during the academic year but are not served by federal summer nutrition programs.

More work is needed at the federal, state, and local levels to ensure all eligible children have access to healthy, affordable meals when school is out. Highlights of this report's recommendations are listed below.

1. State Superintendent Torlakson should initiate and coordinate a state convening to develop legislative, administrative, and fiscal solutions that will close the gaps in summer learning and summer nutrition.
2. The Legislature should require the state to collect and track data describing the availability of summer school and summer learning programs.
3. The California Department of Education should promote and monitor implementation of increased outreach requirements included in the 2010 Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act (Child Nutrition Reauthorization).
4. Local school nutrition services departments should work with community leaders and community-based organizations to vend meals, sponsor meal programs, and disseminate information to students/families about available summer meal sites.
5. Summer meal advocates, administrators, and academic partners should develop and implement a summer nutrition research agenda to better understand what nutrition resources are available to California's low-income students.

For the full report and additional resources, please visit: <http://cfpa.net/sowa-2012>.